

Karen Gilgenbach Bio:

Karen Gilgenbach holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Mechanics from Michigan State, a Master of Science in Weld Engineering from Ohio State, an MBA through Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, and a Master of Science in Finance from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. She has been a Certified Welding Inspector since 2006 and is a Certified Welding Supervisor as well as a Certified Robotic Arc Welder Technician.

Professionally, Karen is the Senior Vice President of Marketing for Nippon Sanso Matheson, which is one of the largest Gas Distributors in the US. Karen has had experience in roles including Zone Vice President, Area Vice President, District Manager, Weld Process Specialist, Product Manager and Sales Technician in her career.

Karen has been very active in AWS for many years. She is a Director at Large for the AWS Board of Directors. She is also the Chair of the AWS D16 Committee. The AWS D16 Committee on Robotic and Automatic Welding was organized in 1985 to provide a centralized source for the exchange of technical information between manufacturers, installers, and operators of robotic and automated equipment.

Karen is a former Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Chair of the AWS Milwaukee Section, and a former board member of the Los Angeles / Inland Empire section. She co-chaired the National Robotic Arc Welding Conference from 2007 to 2017, which provided the initial funding for the John F Hinrichs Memorial Endowment. She was one of the founders of the John F. Hinrichs Memorial Endowment scholarship, which currently provides over \$20,000 annually to students pursuing weld and welding engineering degrees, as well as one of the founders of the David J Landon National Endowment.

Some of the honors Karen has been awarded include the National Meritorious Award through the AWS, the AWS Dalton E Hamilton Memorial CWI of the Year, the STEP Award through the Manufacturing Institute (where she was also one of the Keynote Speakers for the award ceremony), the AWS District Meritorious Certificate Award, and the AWS District Director Certificate Award. She was brought up by name in Senate Hearing 113-56 on May 15, 2013 and is mentioned in the Hearing documentation in the Library of Congress as a result.